



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

33438 7590 09/03/2010

HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP  
P.O. BOX 203518  
AUSTIN, TX 78720

EXAMINER

MEINISCKE DIAZ, SUSANNA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3684

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/895,458

06/29/2001

Andrew W. Allemann

T00046

9006

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUTOMATED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING GOALS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	12/03/2010

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

33438 7590 09/03/2010

**HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP**  
P.O. BOX 203518  
AUSTIN, TX 78720

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE-FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,458	06/29/2001	Andrew W. Allenmann	T00046	9006

TITLE OF INVENTION: AUTOMATED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING GOALS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	12/03/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
MEINECKE DIAZ, SUSANNA M	3684	705-007000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/147; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2

3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,458	06/29/2001	Andrew W. Allemann	T00046	9006
33438	7590	09/03/2010	EXAMINER	
HAMILTON & TERRILE, LLP P.O. BOX 203518 AUSTIN, TX 78720			MEINECKE DIAZ, SUSANNA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3684

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2010

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 398 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 398 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

09/895,458

**Applicant(s)**

ALLEMANN ET AL.

**Examiner**

Susanna M. Diaz

**Art Unit**

3684

**- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Examiner's amendment agreed to on August 24, 2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 56-85.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ ~~Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)~~
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ ~~Interview Summary (PTO-613)~~  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Susanna M. Diaz/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3684

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kent Chambers (Reg. No. 38,839) on August 24, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A guidance method of maintaining goals using a computer system with at least first and second goal types so as to promote goal alignment, the guidance method comprising:

- providing a first rule for relationships between goals of the first goal type;
- providing a second rule for relationships between goals of the first goal type and goals of the second goal type;
- storing a primary goal of the first goal type;
- dynamically determining content for a user interface, based on in accordance with the first and second rules, such that the content directs a user of the user interface in generation of content of a secondary goal of the second goal type that causes alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal of the first goal type;
- performing using a computer system:
  - storing the secondary goal of the second goal type;
  - requesting verification of alignment between the primary goal and the secondary goal;
  - indicating alignment of the primary goal and the secondary goal at least upon receiving a response to the requested verification of alignment;

28 determining, with the computer system, [[if]] that the primary goal has  
29 been modified; and  
30 executing goal alignment code to (i) check for primary goal and secondary  
31 goal alignment and ,when the primary goal is modified, (ii)  
32 generate an alignment warning with the computer system to  
33 provide notice regarding alignment between the modified primary  
34 goal and the secondary goal, wherein to generate an alignment  
35 warning comprises generating an alignment warning for display to  
36 alert a viewer of the display of the alignment warning.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2 activating a wizard, wherein:  
3 dynamically determining content for the user interface comprises automatically  
4 customizing content for a screen capable of being displayed by the wizard,  
5 ~~based on~~ in accordance with at least one of the first rule and the second  
6 rule, to direct the user of the user interface in the generation of the content  
7 of the secondary goal that results in alignment of the secondary goal with  
8 the primary goal.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:  
2 activating the wizard in response to a request from a user to modify the secondary  
3 goal;  
4 prompting the user to select a team to be associated with the secondary goal from  
5 a drop-down list of teams; and  
6 prompting the user to select a parent goal for the secondary goal from a list  
7 showing all team goals linked to the selected team, wherein the parent  
8 goal selected by the user becomes the primary goal.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:  
2 in response to modification of the secondary goal, automatically determining  
3 whether a child goal exists for the secondary goal; and

4           in response to determining that the child goal does exist, automatically flagging  
5           the child goal to cause a user interface for an owner of that child goal to  
6           indicate that the child goal should be checked for alignment.

1           5.       (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:  
2           determining that the owner has verified the alignment of the child goal; and  
3           in response to determining that the owner has verified the alignment,  
4           automatically unflagging the child goal.

1           6.       (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein  
2           determining content for the user interface comprises automatically flagging the  
3           secondary goal for supervisory approval in response to determining that the user  
4           has a supervisor.

1           7.       (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein  
2           determining content for the user interface comprises:  
3           populating objects for a graphical user interface with alignment information and  
4           warnings; and  
5           providing connections to tools for checking alignment.

1           8.       (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein populating objects for a  
2           graphical user interface with alignment information and warnings comprises  
3           specifying an appearance for at least one of a manager warning object, a  
4           feedback warning object, and an alignment warning object.

1           9.       (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein specifying an  
2           appearance for at least one of a manager warning object, a feedback warning  
3           object, and an alignment warning object comprises highlighting the alignment  
4           warning object in response to determining that the parent goal has been  
5           modified.

1           10.      (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein specifying  
2           an appearance for at least one of a manager warning object, a feedback warning  
3           object, and an alignment warning object comprises highlighting the manager

- 4 warning object in response to determining that a supervisor has provided  
5 feedback pertaining to the secondary goal.

1 11. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein:  
2 providing connections to tools for checking alignment comprises providing an  
3 alignment warning object; and  
4 the method further comprises displaying an interface for viewing the parent goal,  
5 in response to selection of the alignment warning object.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein  
2 determining content for the user interface further comprises providing an  
3 evaluation status object that indicates whether a supervisor has evaluated the  
4 secondary goal.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein  
2 determining content for the user interface further comprises providing an  
3 evaluation summary object that reflects evaluation results relating to at least one  
4 of importance and effectiveness of the secondary goal.

1 14.-55. (Canceled)

1 56. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein generation of  
2 content of a secondary goal of the second goal type that causes alignment of the  
3 secondary goal with the primary goal of the first goal type comprises generation of the  
4 content of the secondary goal that results in realization of at least part of the primary  
5 goal.

1 57. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:  
2 a processor; and  
3 a memory, coupled to the processor, having code stored therein and executable by  
4 the processor for:  
5 providing a first rule for relationships between goals of the first goal type;



providing a second rule for relationships between goals of the first goal type and goals of the second goal type;  
storing a primary goal of the first goal type;  
dynamically determining content for a user interface, ~~based on~~ in accordance with the first and second rules, such that the content directs a user of the user interface in generation of content of a secondary goal of the second goal type that causes alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal of the first goal type;  
storing the secondary goal of the second goal type;  
requesting verification of alignment between the primary goal and the secondary goal;  
indicating alignment of the primary goal and the secondary goal at least upon receiving a response to the requested verification of alignment;  
determining, with the computer system, ~~[[if]]~~ that the primary goal has been modified; and  
~~upon modification of executing goal alignment code to (i) check for~~ primary goal and secondary goal alignment and, when the primary goal is modified, (ii) generating ~~generate~~ an alignment warning with the computer system to provide notice regarding alignment between the modified primary goal and the secondary goal, wherein ~~generating to generate~~ an alignment warning comprises generating an alignment warning for display to alert a viewer of the display of the alignment warning.

58. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 57 wherein the code is further configured for:  
activating a wizard; and  
wherein the code for dynamically determining content for a user interface is further configured for automatically customizing content for a screen capable of being displayed by the wizard, ~~based on~~ in accordance with at

7           least one of the first rule and the second rule, to direct the user of the user  
8           interface in the generation of the content of the secondary goal that results  
9           in alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal.

1           59.   (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 58 wherein the code  
2   is further configured for:  
3           activating the wizard in response to a request from a user to modify the secondary  
4           goal;  
5           prompting the user to select a team to be associated with the secondary goal from  
6           a drop-down list of teams; and  
7           prompting the user to select a parent goal for the secondary goal from a list  
8           showing all team goals linked to the selected team, wherein the parent  
9           goal selected by the user becomes the primary goal.

1           60.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 59 wherein the  
2   code is further configured for:  
3           in response to modification of the secondary goal, automatically determining  
4           whether a child goal exists for the secondary goal; and  
5           in response to determining that the child goal does exist, automatically flagging  
6           the child goal to cause a user interface for an owner of that child goal to  
7           indicate that the child goal should be checked for alignment.

1           61.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 60 wherein the  
2   code is further configured for:  
3           determining that the owner has verified the alignment of the child goal; and  
4           in response to determining that the owner has verified the alignment,  
5           automatically unflagging the child goal.

1           62.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 61 wherein the  
2   code for determining content for the user interface is further configured for automatically  
3   flagging the secondary goal for supervisory approval in response to determining that the  
4   user has a supervisor.

1           63.     (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 62 wherein the  
2     code for determining content for the user interface is further configured for:  
3           populating objects for a graphical user interface with alignment information and  
4           warnings; and  
5           providing connections to tools for checking alignment.

1           64.     (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 63 wherein the  
2     code for populating objects for a graphical user interface with alignment information and  
3     warnings is further configured for specifying an appearance for at least one of a manager  
4     warning object, a feedback warning object, and an alignment warning object.

1           65.     (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 64 wherein the  
2     code for specifying an appearance for at least one of a manager warning object, a  
3     feedback warning object, and an alignment warning object is further configured for  
4     highlighting the alignment warning object in response to determining that the parent goal  
5     has been modified.

1           66.     (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 64 wherein the  
2     code for specifying an appearance for at least one of a manager warning object, a  
3     feedback warning object, and an alignment warning object comprises is further  
4     configured for highlighting the manager warning object in response to determining that a  
5     supervisor has provided feedback pertaining to the secondary goal.

1           67.     (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 63 wherein the  
2     code is further configured for:  
3           providing connections to tools for checking alignment comprises providing an  
4           alignment warning object; and  
5           the code is further configured for displaying an interface for viewing the parent  
6           goal, in response to selection of the alignment warning object.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 63 wherein the code for determining content for the user interface is further configured for providing an evaluation status object that indicates whether a supervisor has evaluated the secondary goal.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 68 wherein the code for determining content for the user interface is further configured for providing an evaluation summary object that reflects evaluation results relating to at least one of importance and effectiveness of the secondary goal.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 57 wherein generation of content of a secondary goal of the second goal type that causes alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal of the first goal type comprises generation of the content of the secondary goal that results in realization of at least part of the primary goal.

71. (Currently Amended) A tangible, non-transitory computer readable medium comprising code stored therein and executable by a processor, wherein the code is configured for:

- providing a first rule for relationships between goals of the first goal type;
- providing a second rule for relationships between goals of the first goal type and goals of the second goal type;
- storing a primary goal of the first goal type;
- dynamically determining content for a user interface, based on in accordance with the first and second rules, such that the content directs a user of the user interface in generation of content of a secondary goal of the second goal type that causes alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal of the first goal type;
- storing the secondary goal of the second goal type;
- requesting verification of alignment between the primary goal and the secondary goal;

16            indicating alignment of the primary goal and the secondary goal at least  
17            upon receiving a response to the requested verification of  
18            alignment;  
19            determining, with the computer system, [[if]] that the primary goal has  
20            been modified; and  
21            ~~upon modification of executing goal alignment code to (i) check for~~  
22            primary goal and secondary goal alignment and ,when the primary  
23            goal is modified, (ii) generating generate an alignment warning  
24            with the computer system to provide notice regarding alignment  
25            between the modified primary goal and the secondary goal,  
26            wherein ~~generating to generate~~ an alignment warning comprises  
27            generating an alignment warning for display to alert a viewer of  
28            the display of the alignment warning.

1            72.     (Currently Amended) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2            medium of Claim 71 wherein the code is further configured for:  
3            activating a wizard; and  
4            wherein the code for dynamically determining content for a user interface is  
5            further configured for automatically customizing content for a screen  
6            capable of being displayed by the wizard, ~~based on~~ in accordance with at  
7            least one of the first rule and the second rule, to direct the user of the user  
8            interface in the generation of the content of the secondary goal that results  
9            in alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal.

1            73.     (Currently Amended) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2            medium of Claim 72 wherein the code is further configured for:  
3            activating the wizard in response to a request from a user to modify the secondary  
4            goal;  
5            prompting the user to select a team to be associated with the secondary goal from  
6            a drop-down list of teams; and

7           prompting the user to select a parent goal for the secondary goal from a list  
8           showing all team goals linked to the selected team, wherein the parent  
9           goal selected by the user becomes the primary goal.

1           74.   (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2   medium of Claim 73 wherein the code is further configured for:  
3           in response to modification of the secondary goal, automatically determining  
4           whether a child goal exists for the secondary goal; and  
5           in response to determining that the child goal does exist, automatically flagging  
6           the child goal to cause a user interface for an owner of that child goal to  
7           indicate that the child goal should be checked for alignment.

1           75.   (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2   medium of Claim 74 wherein the code is further configured for:  
3           determining that the owner has verified the alignment of the child goal; and  
4           in response to determining that the owner has verified the alignment,  
5           automatically unflagging the child goal.

1           76.   (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2   medium of Claim 75 wherein the code for determining content for the user interface is  
3   further configured for automatically flagging the secondary goal for supervisory approval  
4   in response to determining that the user has a supervisor.

1           77.   (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2   medium of Claim 76 wherein the code for determining content for the user interface is  
3   further configured for:  
4           populating objects for a graphical user interface with alignment information and  
5           warnings; and  
6           providing connections to tools for checking alignment.

1           78.   (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2   medium of Claim 77 wherein the code for populating objects for a graphical user

3 interface with alignment information and warnings is further configured for specifying an  
4 appearance for at least one of a manager warning object, a feedback warning object, and  
5 an alignment warning object.

1 79. (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2 medium of Claim 78 wherein the code for specifying an appearance for at least one of a  
3 manager warning object, a feedback warning object, and an alignment warning object is  
4 further configured for highlighting the alignment warning object in response to  
5 determining that the parent goal has been modified.

1 80. (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2 medium of Claim 79 wherein the code for specifying an appearance for at least one of a  
3 manager warning object, a feedback warning object, and an alignment warning object  
4 comprises is further configured for highlighting the manager warning object in response  
5 to determining that a supervisor has provided feedback pertaining to the secondary goal.

1 81. (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2 medium of Claim 77 wherein the code is further configured for:  
3 providing connections to tools for checking alignment comprises providing an  
4 alignment warning object; and  
5 the code is further configured for displaying an interface for viewing the parent  
6 goal, in response to selection of the alignment warning object.

1 82. (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2 medium of Claim 77 wherein the code for determining content for the user interface is  
3 further configured for providing an evaluation status object that indicates whether a  
4 supervisor has evaluated the secondary goal.

1 83. (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2 medium of Claim 82 wherein the code for determining content for the user interface is  
3 further configured for providing an evaluation summary object that reflects evaluation  
4 results relating to at least one of importance and effectiveness of the secondary goal.

1           84.     (Previously Presented) The tangible, non-transitory computer readable  
2     medium of Claim 71 wherein generation of content of a secondary goal of the second  
3     goal type that causes alignment of the secondary goal with the primary goal of the first  
4     goal type comprises generation of the content of the secondary goal that results in  
5     realization of at least part of the primary goal.

1           85.     (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein generating an  
2     alignment warning comprises presenting a message on a computer display.



***Conclusion***

2. Claims 1-13 and 56-85 are allowed.
  
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-6733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Susanna M. Diaz/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3684